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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2154

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/774,968

Applicant(s)

ZEBIAN, MARWAN

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Application Number 09/774, 9680 was filed on 01/31/2001. Claims 1-40 are subject to examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

- a. Claim 30 recites computer codes, for connecting to the user's client device, setting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon the available NAN list, for setting an order for selecting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon the connection information, wherein the order is set outside of the user's control and for disconnecting from the client device, wherein is absent computer readability or execution.

- b. Claim 33 recites computer codes, for storing a user network access number (NAN) list in the client device, wherein the NAN is associated with one of the back end providers, for sequentially dialing NANs from the user NAN list based upon an order of selection until the front end portion is established and the back end portion is authorized, wherein the order is based upon the cost of the back end portion and historical quality of connection statistics for the back end, wherein is absent computer readability or execution.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by West et al. (hereinafter West)(US 6,081,508).

Referring to claim 1,

The reference teaches a method for maximizing qualities of a user network access number (NAN) list, the user NAN list comprising plural NANs (col.2, lines 20-23), the NANs for use by a user's client device (Fig.1, element 100) in connecting to a data network (Fig.4, element 340, LAN) under control of a server system (Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334), the method comprising:

storing in the server system an available NAN list of NANs available for the client device (Fig.1, element 100) to connect to the data network(Fig.4, element 340, LAN), wherein the user NAN list comprises a subset of the available NAN list (col. 3, lines 35-45, Fig.4, element 334).

storing in the server system (Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334) connection information about connecting from the NANs in the available NAN list to the data network(col. 3,

lines 35-45, Fig.4, element 334, col.3, lines 5-7, "the set of access paths for communicating" (connection information)).

connecting the client device (Fig.1, element 100) to the server system (Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334)

setting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon the available NAN list (col.3, lines 1-4).

setting an order for selecting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon the connection information, wherein the order is set outside of the user's control (col.2, lines 58-63, "set of access paths" (connection information)).

disconnecting the client device (Fig.1, element 100) from the server system(Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334)

Referring to claim 2,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 1 wherein the order setting step comprises associating ranking information with at least one NAN in the user NAN list. (col.3, lines 55-58, col. 6, lines 44-47).

Referring to claims 3 and 4,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 1 wherein the order setting step comprises specifying an actual sequential order of the NANs in the user NAN list and the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of

claim 1 wherein the order setting step comprises providing a sequence list which identifies the order for using the NANs in the user NAN list. (col.6, lines 37-64).

Referring to claim 5,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 1 wherein the order setting step comprises providing the client device with connection information for the NANs in the user NAN list and an algorithm for selecting the NANs based upon the provided connection information. (col.6, lines 37-64).

Referring to claim 6,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 1 wherein

the NANs are for providing the client device (col.2, lines 31-36) with a connection to the data network (Fig.3, element 340, "LAN") through plural back end networks (Fig.3, element 140)

each NAN is associated with a one of plural back end providers, each back end network is associated with one of the back end providers (Fig.3, elements 140 and 340)

the connection information includes a cost from the back end provider for the client device to utilize the back end network of the back end provider((col.2, lines 31-36)

the back end providers permit a connection through their back end networks to the client device under the authorization of the server system. (Fig. 3, element 334, "management Server", element 330)

Referring to claim 7,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 1 wherein the connection information includes location information for the NANs in the available NAN list, the method further comprising

determining a location of the client device, determining an available local NAN list based upon the location of the client device and the location information for the NANs in the available NAN list (col.2, lines 58-63),

comparing the available local NAN list with the user NAN list to identify a good NAN in the available local NAN list which is not in the user NAN list, adding the good NAN to the user NAN list. (col.6, lines 37-58).

Referring to claim 8,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 7, wherein the location information for the NANs in the available NAN list comprises an area code. (Fig. 12, col. 14, lines 53-63).

Referring to claim 9,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 7, wherein before adding the good NAN to the user NAN list, asking the user for permission to add the good NAN to the user NAN list. (Fig. 2C, col. 6, lines 37-58).

Referring to claim 10,

The reference teaches the method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 7, further comprising

comparing the available local NAN list with the user NAN list to identify, a bad NAN in the user NAN list which is not in the available local NAN list, deleting the bad

NAN from the user NAN list. (Fig. 5, element 550, col. 14, lines 45-52, col.6, lines 37-58).

Referring to claim 11,

The method for maximizing qualities of a user NAN list of claim 10, wherein before deleting the bad NAN from the user NAN list, asking the user for permission to delete the bad NAN from the user NAN list. (Fig. 2C, col. 6, lines 37-58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 12-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over West et al. (hereinafter West)(US 6,081,508) in view of Dieterman et al. (hereinafter Dieterman)(Pub. No. US 2002/0013896).

Referring to claim 12,

As stated above, the reference West teaches a method of setting an order for using network access numbers (NANs) in a user NAN list, the user NAN list comprising plural NANs (col.2, lines 58-63, "set of access paths"), the NANs for use by the user's client device (Fig.1, element 100) in connecting to a data network (Fig.4, element 340, LAN) under control of a server system(Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334), wherein a connection from the client device to the data network comprises a front end portion (Fig.3, connection

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between modem 310 and PSTN 120) and a back end portion(Fig.3, connection between and POP), the front end portion comprising a first connection from the client device to a public switch(Fig.3, connection between modem 310 and PSTN 120), and the back end portion comprising a second connection from the public switch to a point of presence (Fig.3, connection between and POP)under control of one of plural back end providers (Fig.3, element 140, corporate communication system LAN) plus a third connection from the point of presence to the data network (Fig.3, connection between POP and corporate communication system LAN), wherein authorization for the back end provider to establish the back end portion is by the server system (Fig. 3, element 334, "management Server", element 330) and each NAN is associated with one of the back end providers (col.3, lines 35-45), the method comprising

storing in the server system an available NAN list of NANs available for the user's client device (Fig.1, element 100) to connect to the data network(Fig.4, element 340, LAN), wherein the user NAN list comprises a subset of the available NAN list (col.3, lines 35-45, Fig.4,element 334)

storing in the server system connection information for connecting from the NANs in the available NAN list to the data network, the connection information comprising at least one of (a) quality of connection information for the back end portion and (b) costs information for the back end portion (col.6, lines 46-48)

establishing a connection from the client device (Fig.1, element 100) to the server system(Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334)

transmitting an identification of the NANs in the user NAN list from the client device to the server system (Figs 2a-2c)

setting an order for selecting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon at least one of (a) the stored quality of connection information for the back end portion and (b) costs information for the back end portion. (col.6, lines 37-58). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in

quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claims 13 and 14,

Keeping in mind the teachings of the reference West as stated above, although the reference teaches to update the database of the remote computer (col.23, lines 19-26), the reference fails to teach updating being done by the online service provider server system. The reference Dieterman teaches "the method for automatically updating network configuration settings includes the steps of: having the client computer dial a telephone number assigned to an internet service provider toward establishing a communication link between the client computer and the internet service provider computer via the client computer modem; having the internet service provider determine the optimal configuration settings (identifying a current version of the user NAN list, and the transmitting step comprises transmitting the version code from the client device to the online service provider server system and wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting the user NAN list from the client device to the online service provider server system.); transmitting the optimal configuration settings from the internet service provider to the client computer; and storing the new configuration settings in the client computer."(page 2, [0019]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the

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users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 15,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the step of ordering is performed by the client device (col.6, lines 51-55).

Referring to claim 16,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the step of ordering is performed by the online service provider server system. (col.6, lines 44-48).

Referring to claim 17,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12, the order setting step comprising setting the order for selecting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon both the stored quality of connection information (performance) and the stored costs information. (col.6, lines 44-48).

Referring to claims 18 and 19,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 17, wherein the connection information includes an identification of a back end provider and the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the available NAN list identifies a central office which serves each NAN, and the cost information for each NAN includes a cost of providing a connection from the respective central office to the data network. (Fig. 12, 14, 15, and 16, col. 17, lines 55-67 and col. 18, lines 1-67 and col.19, lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 20,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12, wherein the stored quality of connection information (performance) comprises reliability data derived from historical quality-of-connection statistics associated with the NANs.(col.3, lines 55-58).

Referring to claim 21,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 20. further including the client device (remote computer)

providing the online service provider server system with quality of connection information, and the online service provider server system incorporating the quality of connection information from the client device into the historical quality-of-connection statistics. (col.3, lines 55-58).

Referring to claim 22,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the order setting step comprises associating ranking information with at least one NAN in the user NAN list. (col.3, lines 55-58, col. 6, lines 44-47).

Referring to claims 23 and 24,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the order setting step comprises specifying an actual sequential order of the NANs in the user NAN list and the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the order setting step comprises providing a sequence list which identifies the order for using the NANs in the user NAN list. (col.6, lines 37-64).

Referring to claim 25,

The reference West teaches the method of ordering a user's network access number NAN list as set forth in claim 12 wherein the order setting step comprises providing the client device with connection information for the NANs in the user NAN list and an algorithm for selecting the NANs based upon the provided connection information. (col.6, lines 37-67 and col.7, lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 26,

The reference West teaches the method of connecting from a client device (Fig.1, element 100) to a data network (Fig.4, element 340, LAN) under control of a server (Fig.3, element 140 incorporating Management Server, element 334), wherein a connection from the client device to the data network comprises a front end portion (Fig.3, connection between modem 310 and PSTN 120) and a back end portion (Fig.3, connection between and POP), the front end portion comprising a first connection from the client device to a public switch (Fig.3, connection between modem 310 and PSTN 120), and the back end portion comprising a second connection from the public switch to a point of presence (Fig.3, connection between and POP) under control of one of plural back end providers (Fig.3, element 140, corporate communication system LAN) plus a third connection from the point of presence to the data network (Fig.3, connection between POP and corporate communication system LAN), wherein authorization of the back end portion is by the online service provider server system (Fig. 3, element 334, "management Server", element 330), and each NAN is associated with one of the back end providers (col.3, lines 35-45), the method comprising

storing a user network access number (NAN) list in the client device (Fig.5, element 552, "local database")

sequentially dialing NANs from the user NAN list based upon an order of selection until the front end portion is established and the back end portion is authorized wherein the order is based upon the cost of the back end portion and historical quality of connection statistics for the back end. (Fig.2a-Fig. 2c, col. 5, lines 57-67 and col.6, lines

1-58). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claims 27 and 28,

The reference west teaches the method of connecting from a client device to a data network of claim 26, wherein the ordering is specified by an actual sequential order of the NANs in the user NAN list and the method of connecting from a client device to a data network of claim 26, wherein the ordering is specified by a sequence list which identifies the order for using the NANs in the user NAN list. (col.6, lines 37-64).

Referring to claim 29,

The reference west teaches the method of connecting from a client device to a data network of claim 26, the method further comprising the client device determining which NAN from the user NAN list to use next using an algorithm received from. an online service provider server system. (Fig.2a-Fig. 2c, col. 5, lines 57-67 and col.6, lines 1-58).

Referring to claim 30,

The reference West teaches the server system for controlling a connection between a user's client device (Fig.1, element 100) and a data network (Fig.4, element 340, LAN), wherein the user's client device attempts connection to the data network using network access numbers in a network access number (NAN) list comprising plural NANs, the server system comprising

first memory storing an available NAN list of NANs available for the client device (Fig.1, element 100) to connect to the data network(Fig.4, element 340, LAN),, wherein. the user NAN list comprises a subset of the available NAN list (col.3, lines 35-45, Fig.4, element 334)

second memory storing connection information about connecting from the NANs in the available NAN list to the data network(Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334 and (col. 3, lines 35-45, Fig.4, element 334, col.3, lines 5-7, "the set of access paths for communicating" (connection information)).

computer program code for connecting to the user's client device (Fig.1, element 100)

computer program code for setting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon the available NAN list (col.3, lines 1-4)

computer program code for setting an order for selecting the NANs in the user NAN list based upon the connection information, wherein the order is set outside of the user's control(col.2, lines 58-63, "set of access paths" (connection information)).

computer program code disconnecting from the client device.(Fig.1, element 100 and Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system

of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 31,

The reference West teaches a server system for controlling a connection between a user's client device and a data network of claim 30 wherein the server system associates ranking information with at least one NAN in the user NAN list. (col.3, lines 55-58, col. 6, lines 44-47). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider.

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Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 32,

The reference West teaches the server system for controlling a connection between a user's client device (Fig.1, element 100) and a data network (Fig.3, element 340, "LAN") of claim 30 wherein

the NANs are for providing the client device (col.2, lines 31-36) with a connection to the data network (Fig.3, element 340, "LAN") through plural back end networks (Fig.3, element 140)

each NAN is associated with a one of plural back end providers, each back end network is associated with one of the back end providers (Fig.3, elements 140 and 340)

the connection information includes a cost from the back end provider for the client device to utilize the back end network of the back end provider(col.2, lines 31-36)

the back end providers permit a connection through their back end networks to the client device under the authorization of the server system. (Fig. 3, element 334, "management Server", element 330) The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network.

The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 33,

The reference West teaches a client device (Fig.1, element 100) for connecting to a data network (Fig. 3, element 340, "LAN) under control of a server (Fig.1, element 140, corporate communication system incorporating management server, Fig.4, element 334), wherein the connection from the client device to the data network comprises a front end portion and a back end portion, the front end portion comprising a first connection from the client device to a public switch(Fig.3, connection between modem 310 and PSTN 120), and the back end portion comprising a second connection from the public switch to a point of presence under control of one of plural back end providers (Fig.3, connection between and POP) plus a third connection from the point of presence to the data network(Fig.3, connection between POP and corporate communication system LAN), wherein authorization of the back end portion is by the

server system (Fig. 3, element 334, "management Server", element 330), the client device comprising

computer program code for storing a user network access number (NAN) list in the client device (Fig.5, element 552, "local database"), wherein the NAN is associated with one of the back end providers (Fig.3, elements 140 and 340)

computer program code for sequentially dialing NANs from the user NAN list based upon an order of selection until the front end portion is established and the back end portion is authorized, wherein the order is based upon the cost of the back end portion and historical quality of connection statistics for the back end. (col.6, lines 43-48). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces

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several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claims 34 and 35,

The reference West teaches the client device for connecting to a data network under control of a server of claim 33 wherein the order is specified by an actual sequential order of the NANs in the user NAN list and the client device for connecting to a data network under control of a server of claim 33 wherein the order is specified by a sequence list which identifies the order for using the NANs in the user NAN list. (col.6, lines 37-64). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 36,

36. The client device for connecting to a data network under control of an online service provider server of claim 33 wherein the client device determines which NAN from the user NAN list to use next using an algorithm received from an online service provider server system. (col.6, lines 37-67 and col.7, lines 1-5). The reference fails to teach the server as being the online service provider server. The reference Dieterman teaches the invention that involves the automatic determination and setting of preferred service

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provider telephone access numbers and client configurations when the client connects to the service provider. Preferred access numbers can be determined on the bases of geographic location, POP usage charge (cost), and residual connection capacity (performance) (page 2, [0018]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply and practice the system of West into the system of Dieterman such that the same information is provided to the users of Dieterman's online service provider as it is being provided to the users of the West's system. It provides the solution to the problem stated by West "as a user of a remote typically has a choice of multiple access methods and telephone numbers using which the user can connect his remote computer to a local computer or a local area network. The remote user often user faces several problems. These problems include first knowing what numbers and access methods the user has a choice of, and knowing the cost of using those numbers and access methods. This first problem is exasperated by a large number of available access points, changes of access telephone numbers, changes in telephone and network access rates, and changes in quality of service provided by various service providers. Distributing, storing, and searching a comprehensive directory of access numbers and associated costs would, in general, be prohibitive on remote computers with limited storage and computation capacity, such as portable computers typically often used by mobile workers. (Abstract).

Referring to claim 37,

Claim 37 is a claim to a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for carrying out the

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steps of method of claim 26. Therefore claim 37 is rejected for the reasons set forth for the claim 26.

Referring to claims 38 and 39,

Claims 38 and 39 are claims to a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for carrying out the steps of method of claims 27 and 28. Therefore Claims 38 and 39 are rejected for the reasons set forth for the claims 27 and 28.

Referring to claim 40,

Claim 40 is a claim to a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for carrying out the steps of method of claim 29. Therefore claim 40 is rejected for the reasons set forth for the claim 29.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Abp

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